

Remarks

Reconsideration of the above-referenced patent application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

By this response, claims 1, 4, 10, 16, and 18 are amended. No claims are cancelled, so claims 1-18 remain pending in the application.

Non-statutory Subject Matter

Claims 16 and 18 were objected to for allegedly containing non-statutory subject matter. Applicant disagrees with this holding, but has amended claims 16 and 18 to facilitate prosecution.

Claim 16 is alleged to be a single means claim. Applicant disagrees. The claim does not include the word “means” or any similar term. Single-element claims, other than single means claims, are permissible so claim 16 was in proper form as originally written. Claim 16 is now amended to include additional structure, in particular an “exchange site (DS) having a parking lot with designated spaces for parking, which designated parking spaces correspond to delivery locations for shipments present at the DS.” This further clarifies that claim 16 is not a single means claim.

Claim 18 has been amended to remove the reference to “member individuals” as an element of the system.

For these reasons, the objections due to allegedly non-statutory subject matter should be withdrawn.

Cited Patents

Each of the claims has been rejected as being shown or suggested by the teachings of U.S. Patent 6,021,392 (Lester et al.) either alone or in combination with the teachings of others.

Applicant disagrees with this rejection. The Lester et al. patent is specific to a “System and Method for Drug Management” at an institution such as a hospital, and thus does not suggest the order fulfillment system of the present patent application.

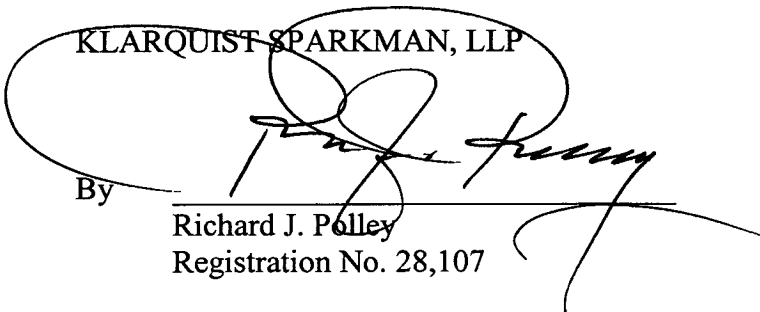
To facilitate prosecution, Applicant hereby amends the claims to specify the presence of one or more exchange sites (DSs) having a parking lot with designated spaces for parking, which designated parking spaces correspond to locations for delivery of shipments present at a DS. (Basis for these amendments can be found in the published application at paragraph [0055]. Applicant reserves the right to resubmit the original claims during subsequent prosecution.)

A user, advised of a designated parking space, can most efficiently approach the location at the DS where a designated shipment will be received by the user.

Nothing in U.S. Patent 6,021,392 (Lester et al.) shows or suggests such a system. And none of the other cited patents teaches or suggests this advantageous arrangement.

For these reasons, a Notice of Allowance now should be issued.

Respectfully submitted,

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